AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH   January 16, 2007

BIRTH FAMILY RECRUITMENT FOR PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

For a child, few tragedies are greater than the loss of a parent.   Yet when

previously adopted children re-enter the foster care system due to an adoption

disruption or the death or incapacitation of an adoptive parent, current law prohibits

these children from the same opportunities available to all foster children, which is to

reconnect with members of their birth families.

In order to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care, child welfare

agencies nationwide are establishing programs through which a child's entire case

record is reviewed to locate and re-involve relatives and other non-related individuals

from the child's past. Los Angeles County's Permanency Partners Program (P3) has

been very successful in achieving permanency for foster children by connecting them

with adults whom they previously knew.   For adoptees, although counties are permitted

to petition the court to review their family records, when the review reveals a

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Molina   _____

Burke   _____

Knabe   _____

Antonovich   _____

Yaroslavsky   _____

birth family member or relative whose current situation or ability to care for the child has

improved over time, California Family Law Code 9201 prohibits the sharing of this

essential information in order to re-involve the child with this individual. As a result,

previously adopted children are more likely to languish in foster care for the rest of their

childhood years and emancipate from foster care without permanency or a

connection to a committed adult.

     I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of

Children and Family Services and the Chief Administrative Office to work with the State

legislative delegation and the County Welfare Directors Association to sponsor

legislation in the 2007-08 State Legislative Session to allow for the disclosure of

identifying information regarding a previously adopted child to an approved potential

adoptive parent or other caretaker from his/her birth family for the purpose of attaining

permanency or adult connection for the child.

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